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Statement submitted by Service and Research Institute on Family and Children, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Theme: Implementing the post 2015 development agenda-moving from commitments to results.

Present day global crisis is manifest in increasing dehumanizing poverty, growing social and economic disparity, global networks of terrorism, continual wars in many parts of the globe, trafficking of women and children, drug cartels, weapons of mass destruction, all of which can be summed up as a breakdown of all social and human safety nets, resulting in increased social and cultural confusion leading to violence and collapse of civilization.

In this crisis the need is to understand: 1. What development means and how it relates to the human person; 2. The need to demystify the term 'development' with determined articulation to identify, name, take collective ownership and address present global crisis; 3. Development cannot be equated or achieved only in economic terms; 4. It must have at its core the wellbeing of the human person in their familial and social contexts; and 5. Address all issues simultaneously as vital resources for development.

This commitment calls for: 1. strengthening social development policies and action; 2. providing fresh thinking which is effective, long-term and lasting; 3. preserving social and human values; and 4. transmitting culture by educating, training, motivating and investing in the future.

An example:

Families are units of production, creating employment and income. As consumption units families have a direct bearing on sustainability and therefore strengthening development in contemporary society lies in the reality of investing greater appreciation of the role of the family as a social unit in sustainable development.

This thinking is embodied in 'Family Centered' practice which is an innovative approach based on a radical set of principles, values and beliefs, which recognizes the critical role of the family as the common vehicle in development. This 'strengths-based, culturally responsive, educationally enlightened approach' which utilizes family strengths, builds on family's resources, while employing an empowerment paradigm is built on collaborative partnerships within families.

Results:

This approach was developed and used during the last thirty years by engaging women in a skills training project which combines training with lessons on family education, economic and social awareness, gender issues, social skills, literacy and language, thereby enabling women to transform their lives and that of their families. Based on this experience Service and Research Institute on Family and Children coined the phrase 'Family — Missing link in Development'.

Recommendations:

1. Service and Research Institute on Family and Children's humble plea to the United Nations in implementing its post 2015 development agenda: develop a Charter of Family Rights and endeavour to promote it among all Nation States.

2. Understanding the reality and implications of 'human development and sustainability' is of utmost importance as it will lead to strengthening and sustaining social development and social protection.